

William Schultze
09/29/04 07:43 AM

To: Waterfowl Migration Group
cc:
cc:
Subject: Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 9/28/2004

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 9/28/2004

Canada Geese - 1100

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 30,000

Swans - 0

The Canada geese are in relatively small flocks scattered throughout the refuge.

Duck numbers have dropped on the refuge in the last couple of weeks. Numbers are made up of mostly mallards, green-winged teal, shovelers, and wood ducks.

Several swans have been reported in wetlands near Sand Lake NWR.

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William Schultze
10/06/04 08:15 AM

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cc:
Subject: Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 10/5/2004

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/5/2004

Canada Geese - 1500

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 45,000

Swans - 90

The strong north wind and cold weather that moved through the area on October 1 pushed some of the first migrants into the refuge.

The Canada geese remain in scattered flocks throughout the refuge.

Diving duck numbers increased with the appearance of the first buffleheads and ring-necked ducks, and an increase in canvasbacks. Northern shovelers, gadwalls, and mallards also increased on the refuge.

The first swans showed up on Sand Lake over the weekend. They are currently located in southern Mud Lake and northern Sand Lake.

The soybean harvest in the Sand Lake area has started and is in full swing.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 9/28/2004

Canada Geese - 1100

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 30,000

Swans - 0

William Schultze
10/13/04 08:47 AM

To: Allen Olson/R6/FWS/DOI@FWS, Beth
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Mark.Grovijahn@state.sd.us

cc:

Subject: Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 10/12/2004

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/12/2004

Canada Geese - 1800

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 50,000

Swans - 280

There were no major changes from last week.

Flocks of lesser scaup showed up during the past week. There was also a small increase in pintails using the refuge. There are still lots of northern shovelers on the refuge and in the area.

The majority of swans are located in southern Mud Lake.

Waterfowl have started feeding in some of the harvested soybean fields surrounding the refuge.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/5/2004

Canada Geese - 1500

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 45,000

Swans - 90

The strong north wind and cold weather that moved through the area on October 1 pushed some of the first migrants into the refuge.

The Canada geese remain in scattered flocks throughout the refuge.

William Schultze
10/19/04 12:40 PM

To:
cc:
cc:
Subject: Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 10/19/2004

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/19/2004

Canada Geese - 2500

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 65,000

Swans - 450

Although no snow geese are currently using the refuge, small flocks of less than 100 have been observed in the refuge area.

Mallard numbers on the refuge increased considerably during the past week. Lesser scaup numbers and other divers also increased. There are still lots of northern shovelers using the refuge.

The majority of swans are located in southern part of Mud Lake.

Most of the soybeans in the refuge area have been harvested. The corn harvest is just beginning.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/12/2004

Canada Geese - 1800

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 50,000

Swans - 280

There were no major changes from last week.

Flocks of lesser scaup showed up during the past week. There was also a small increase in pintails using the refuge. There are still lots of northern shovelers on the refuge and in the area.

The majority of swans are located in southern Mud Lake.

Waterfowl have started feeding in some of the harvested soybean fields surrounding the refuge.

William Schultze

10/26/04 10:38 AM

To: Waterfowl Migration Group
cc:
cc:
Subject: Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 10/26/2004

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/26/2004

Canada Geese - 3500

Snow Geese - 1000

Ducks - 85,000

Swans - 1600

The snow geese were first observed on 10/25. They are in small flocks in both Mud Lake and Sand Lake.

Several small flocks of white-fronted geese have also been observed on the refuge.

Mallard numbers continue to increase on the refuge.

The majority of swans are located in southern part of Mud Lake.

The corn harvest is picking up in the area. Flocks of mallards are beginning to feed in some of the harvested fields.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/19/2004

Canada Geese - 2500

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 65,000

Swans - 450

Although no snow geese are currently using the refuge, small flocks of less than 100 have been observed in the refuge area.

Mallard numbers on the refuge increased considerably during the past week. Lesser scaup numbers and other divers also increased. There are still lots of northern shovelers using the refuge.

The majority of swans are located in southern part of Mud Lake.

Most of the soybeans in the refuge area have been harvested. The corn harvest is just beginning.

William Schultze
11/03/04 07:59 AM

To:
CC:
CC:
Subject: Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 11/2/2004

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/2/2004

Canada Geese - 3500

Snow Geese - 28,000

Ducks - 85,000

Swans - 1300

More snow geese began arriving over the weekend. The largest flock is in northern Sand Lake, with a smaller flock in southern Mud Lake. There are also approximately 15,000 snow geese using Putney Slough, southeast of Sand Lake NWR.

Duck numbers remained stable during the week. The main concentration of mallards on the refuge shifted from Mud Lake to Sand Lake. Duck numbers are made up mostly of mallards and lesser scaup.

Some of the swans on Sand Lake NWR have moved to the wetlands southeast of Hecla, just east of Sand Lake NWR. Approximately 1/3 of the swans on the refuge are now in northern Sand Lake, with the rest still in southern Mud Lake.

There has been little change in the corn harvest since last week, due to the wet weather. Most of the corn in the area is still standing.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/26/2004

Canada Geese - 3500

Snow Geese - 1000

Ducks - 85,000

Swans - 1600

The snow geese were first observed on 10/25. They are in small flocks in both Mud Lake and Sand Lake.

Several small flocks of white-fronted geese have also been observed on the refuge.

Mallard numbers continue to increase on the refuge.

The majority of swans are located in southern part of Mud Lake.

The corn harvest is picking up in the area. Flocks of mallards are beginning to feed in some of the harvested fields.

William Schultze

11/09/04 02:42 PM

To:

CC:

CC:

Subject: Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 11/9/2004

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/9/2004

Canada Geese - 4000

Snow Geese - 130,000

Ducks - 110,000

Swans - 1300

Snow goose numbers built during the end of last week into the weekend. There are flocks in northern Sand Lake and in southern Mud Lake. There are also over 30,000 snow geese using Putney Slough, southeast of Sand Lake NWR.

Duck numbers grew on the refuge and in the area near the end of last week and over the weekend. The main concentration of mallards on the refuge remains in Sand Lake. Duck numbers are made up mostly of mallards, with scaup, shovelers, lesser scaup, and redheads making up most of the rest of the ducks.

Swan numbers on the refuge remained steady from last week, although most of the swans are now located in Sand Lake. Swans are still using some of the wetlands southeast of Hecla.

Corn harvest has picked up during the past week, providing more feeding areas for the mallards and geese using Sand Lake NWR.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/2/2004

Canada Geese - 3500

Snow Geese - 28,000

Ducks - 85,000

Swans - 1300

More snow geese began arriving over the weekend. The largest flock is in northern Sand Lake, with a smaller flock in southern Mud Lake. There are also approximately 15,000 snow geese using Putney Slough, southeast of Sand Lake NWR.

Duck numbers remained stable during the week. The main concentration of mallards on the refuge shifted from Mud Lake to Sand Lake. Duck numbers are made up mostly of mallards and lesser scaup.

Some of the swans on Sand Lake NWR have moved to the wetlands southeast of Hecla, just east of Sand Lake NWR. Approximately 1/3 of the swans on the refuge are now in northern Sand Lake, with the rest still in southern Mud Lake.

William Schultze
11/17/04 08:24 AM

To: Allen Olson/R6/FWS/DOI@FWS, Beth Ullenberg/R6/FWS/DOI@FWS, Donald Soderlund/R6/FWS/DOI@FWS, Gene Williams/R6/FWS/DOI@FWS, Jay Peterson/R6/FWS/DOI@FWS, John Jave/R6/FWS/DOI@FWS, Marcia Haaland/R6/FWS/DOI@FWS, bill.antonides@state.sd.us, brook.brown@state.sd.us, iadnrcl@netins.net, joan.delight@state.sd.us, joe.galbraith@state.sd.us, paul.mammenga@state.sd.us, Spencer_Vaa@sdstate.edu, Will.Morlock@state.sd.us, Kenneth Torkelson/R6/FWS/DOI@FWS, Richard Speer/R3/FWS/DOI@FWS, Paulette Scherr/R6/FWS/DOI@FWS, Mark.Grovijahn@state.sd.us, Bob Barry/R3/FWS/DOI@FWS, kent.jensen@sdstate.edu

cc:

Subject: Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 11/16/2004

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/16/2004

Canada Geese - 3700

Snow Geese - 200,000

Ducks - 110,000

Swans - 1700

Snow goose numbers continued to build during the last week. The biggest flock is spread out along the east edge of Sand Lake, with a smaller flock in the center of Mud Lake. There are also approximately 12,000 snow geese on Renziehausen Slough, east of Sand Lake, 30,000 snow geese using Putney Slough, southeast of Sand Lake NWR, and there are reports of snow geese on Scatterwood Lakes, southwest of Aberdeen.

Duck numbers on the refuge remained stable during the last week. The main concentration of mallards on the refuge remains in Sand Lake. Duck numbers are made up mostly of mallards, with shovelers and lesser scaup making up most of the rest of the ducks. There is a large number of mallards on Putney Slough, and on other smaller wetlands in the area.

Swan numbers on the refuge grew slightly from last week. Most of the swans are located in Sand Lake. Swans are still using some of the wetlands southeast of Hecla.

Much of the corn in the area has been harvested. Wetlands in the area remain ice-free.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/9/2004

Canada Geese - 4000

Snow Geese - 130,000

Ducks - 110,000

Swans - 1300

William Schultze
11/23/04 03:40 PM

To: Waterfowl Migration Group
cc:
cc:
Subject: Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 11/23/2004 - Happy Thanksgiving

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/23/2004

Canada Geese - 2500

Snow Geese - 180,000

Ducks - 70,000

Swans - 500

The lakes on the refuge have begun to freeze over the past few days. By the looks of the forecast, the lakes will probably be completely frozen over by the end of the week, and waterfowl numbers will probably continue to fall. The smaller wetlands in the area have frozen over.

There were still good numbers of snow geese on Putney Slough, in the James River valley east of Aberdeen, and on lakes in Spink County.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/16/2004

Canada Geese - 3700

Snow Geese - 200,000

Ducks - 110,000

Swans - 1700

Snow goose numbers continued to build during the last week. The biggest flock is spread out along the east edge of Sand Lake, with a smaller flock in the center of Mud Lake. There are also approximately 12,000 snow geese on Renziehausen Slough, east of Sand Lake, 30,000 snow geese using Putney Slough, southeast of Sand Lake NWR, and there are reports of snow geese on Scatterwood Lakes, southwest of Aberdeen.

Duck numbers on the refuge remained stable during the last week. The main concentration of mallards on the refuge remains in Sand Lake. Duck numbers are made up mostly of mallards, with shovelers and lesser scaup making up most of the rest of the ducks. There is a large number of mallards on Putney Slough, and on other smaller wetlands in the area.

Swan numbers on the refuge grew slightly from last week. Most of the swans are located in Sand Lake. Swans are still using some of the wetlands southeast of Hecla.

Much of the corn in the area has been harvested. Wetlands in the area remain ice-free.

William Schultze

11/30/04 03:06 PM

To:

cc:

cc:

Subject: Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 11/30/2004 - Final Report

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/30/2004

Canada Geese - 2500

Snow Geese - 35,000

Ducks - 50,000

Swans - 0

The lakes on the refuge are mostly frozen over. Waterfowl numbers will probably continue to decline as the open water areas on the lakes continue to freeze.

There are still good numbers of snow geese on Putney Slough.

This is the last Sand Lake report for the fall. Have a good winter!

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/23/2004

Canada Geese - 2500

Snow Geese - 180,000

Ducks - 70,000

Swans - 500

*Still 180,000 on 11/24
~100,000 on 11/25
~50,000 on 11/26 - 28*

The lakes on the refuge have begun to freeze over the past few days. By the looks of the forecast, the lakes will probably be completely frozen over by the end of the week, and waterfowl numbers will probably continue to fall. The smaller wetlands in the area have frozen over.

There were still good numbers of snow geese on Putney Slough, in the James River valley east of Aberdeen, and on lakes in Spink County.

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